



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FORMER ROCKFORD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ARMED BANK ROBBERY OF BELVIDERE BANK AND TRUST COMPANY**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and JAN NOBLE, Belvidere Police Chief, today made the following announcement:

**JOSEPH MILLER**, 39 (DOB: 11/23/64), formerly of Rockford, Illinois, pled guilty today in federal court in Rockford to the armed robbery of the Belvidere Bank and Trust Company, 600 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois, on July 13, 2001.

In pleading guilty, Miller admitted that he entered the bank, walked to the end of the teller counter and attempted to open a locked waist high gate to enter the area behind the teller counter. Miller admitted he attempted to kick open the gate without success, then jumped over the gate to the teller's station. Standing next to a teller Miller demanded money, reached into his pocket and pulled out a knife, partially opening the blade. The teller opened a drawer and Miller then grabbed money with both hands. After obtaining the money, Miller jumped back over the gate and fled the bank.

Miller was arrested by the Riverdale Police on July 14, 2001, on unrelated state drug charges and had been held in state custody since his arrest and conviction on those charges. Miller has been held in federal custody on the federal bank robbery charge since his release from state custody on October 14, 2003.

Sentencing for Miller will be conducted on May 13, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. Miller faces a possible maximum penalty of up to 25 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, and any restitution ordered by the court. In addition, Miller will be subject to a period of supervised release of 3 to 5 years following his release from prison. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

This case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Belvidere Police Department, with the assistance of the Loves Park Police Department and the Riverdale Police Department. It was prosecuted in Rockford federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Monica V. Mallory.

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